

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 remain pending in this application. Claim 1 is currently amended, without acquiescence in the basis for rejection or prejudice to pursue the original claims in a related application. No new matter has been added. Based on the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants would like first to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 3-18 are allowable over the prior art of record.

II. Rejections of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as failing to comply with the statutory subject matter requirement. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 for not being directed to a practical application producing a concrete, useful and tangible result. Specifically, the Office Action states that claim 1 does not appear to be directed to a practical application producing a useful and tangible result. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 1 is currently amended and is believed to have overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claim 1 is not only directed at a practical application of simulation operation of a circuit design but also produces tangible, concrete, and useful results. Applicants thus respectfully request the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101 be withdrawn.

III. Objections to the Claims

Claim 2 stands objected to as being dependent upon the rejected base claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that as claim 1 is currently amended and is thus believed to have overcome the rejection, claim 2 is also believed to be allowable for its dependency upon claim 1.

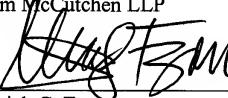
CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing, it is believed that, with entry of this amendment, all claims are now allowable and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions or comments regarding this amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at (650) 849-4962.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Bingham McCutchen's Deposit Account No. 50-4047, referencing billing number 7010652001. The Commissioner is authorized to credit any overpayment or to charge any underpayment to Bingham McCutchen's Deposit Account No. 50-4047, referencing billing number 7010652001.

Respectfully submitted,

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